

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 25, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 29, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 29, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 16, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1515

Introduced by Assembly Member Margett

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ackerman, Alquist, Baugh,
Campbell, Cox, Cunneen, Dutra, Granlund, House, Knox,
Leach, Oller, Robert Pacheco, Pescetti, and Zettel)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Costa, Knight, Monteith, Morrow,
Mountjoy, and Rainey)**

February 26, 1999

An act to amend Sections 4852, 5101, and 5103 of, and to add Section 5061 to, the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1515, as amended, Margett. Vehicles: license plates: motorcycles.

(1) Existing law specifies the dimensions for license plates issued for motor vehicles, other than motorcycles.

This bill would additionally specify the size of the number and letter characters and the minimum spacing between characters on motor vehicle license plates.

The bill would specify the dimensions of a motorcycle license plate, and the character size and minimum spacing between characters on those plates.

This bill would provide that any special interest license plate issued for display on a motorcycle is subject to the same fees that are collected for the issuance and retention of special interest license plates on other vehicles.

(2) Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue special interest license plates containing a distinctive design or decal of a participating organization, to any person, to be displayed in lieu of regular license plates.

This bill would prohibit the department, if it permits the issuance of special interest license plates for display on motorcycles, from approving any design that incorporates either or both a full or partial graphic design appearing behind the license plate number configuration or symbols with the license plate number configuration.

(3) *This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 5101 of the Vehicle Code proposed by SB 2084, to be operative only if this bill and SB 2084 are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2001, each bill amends Section 5101 of the Vehicle Code, and this bill is enacted last.*

(4) *This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 5103 of the Vehicle Code proposed by SB 2084, to be operative only if this bill and SB 2084 are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2001, each bill amends Section 5103 of the Vehicle Code, and this bill is enacted last.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4852 of the Vehicle Code is
2 amended to read:

3 4852. (a) License plates issued for motor vehicles,
4 other than motorcycles, shall be rectangular in shape, 12
5 inches in length and six inches in width. The number and
6 letter characters on the plates shall have a minimum
7 height of two and three-quarter inches, a minimum width



1 of one and one-quarter inches, and a minimum spacing
2 between characters of five-sixteenths of an inch.

3 (b) Motorcycle license plates shall measure seven
4 inches in length and four inches in width, and the
5 characters on the plates shall have a minimum height of
6 one and one-half inches and a minimum width of
7 nine-sixteenths inches, and shall have a minimum spacing
8 between characters of three-sixteenths of an inch.

9 SEC. 2. Section 5061 is added to the Vehicle Code, to
10 read:

11 5061. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of
12 law, if the department permits the issuance of a special
13 interest license plate for display on a motorcycle, the
14 department shall not approve any design for that plate
15 that incorporates either or both of the following:

16 (1) Full or partial graphic designs appearing behind
17 the license plate number configuration.

18 (2) Symbols within the license plate number
19 configuration.

20 (b) Any special interest license plate issued for display
21 on a motorcycle is subject to the same fees that are
22 collected for the issuance and retention of special interest
23 license plates on other vehicles.

24 SEC. 3.5. Section 5101 of the Vehicle Code is amended
25 to read:

26 5101. Any person who is the registered owner or
27 lessee of a passenger vehicle, commercial *motor* vehicle,
28 ~~or trailer~~ motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer registered or
29 *certificated* with the department, or who makes
30 application for an original registration or renewal
31 registration of ~~any such~~ that vehicle, may, upon payment
32 of the fee prescribed in Section 5106, apply to the
33 department for environmental license plates, in the
34 manner prescribed in Section 5105, which plates shall be
35 affixed to the passenger vehicle, commercial *motor*
36 vehicle, ~~or trailer~~ motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer for
37 which registration is sought in lieu of the regular license
38 plates.

39 SEC. 3. Section 5101 of the Vehicle Code is amended
40 to read:

1 5101. Any person who is the registered owner or
2 lessee of a passenger vehicle, commercial vehicle,
3 motorcycle, or trailer registered with the department, or
4 who makes application for an original registration or
5 renewal registration of any vehicle, may, upon payment
6 of the fee prescribed in Section 5106, apply to the
7 department for environmental license plates, in the
8 manner prescribed in Section 5105, which plates shall be
9 affixed to the passenger vehicle, commercial vehicle,
10 motorcycle, or trailer for which registration is sought in
11 lieu of the regular license plates.

12 SEC. 4. Section 5103 of the Vehicle Code is amended
13 to read:

14 5103. "Environmental license plates," as used in this
15 article, means license plates that have displayed upon
16 them the registration number assigned to the passenger
17 vehicle, commercial vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer for
18 which a registration number was issued in a combination
19 of letters or numbers, or both, requested by the owner or
20 lessee of the vehicle.

21 SEC. 4.5. Section 5103 of the Vehicle Code is amended
22 to read:

23 5103. "Environmental license plates," as used in this
24 article, means license plates *or permanent trailer*
25 *identification plates* that have displayed upon them the
26 registration number assigned to the passenger vehicle,
27 commercial *motor* vehicle, ~~or-trailer~~ motorcycle, trailer,
28 *or semitrailer* for which ~~such~~ a registration number was
29 issued in a combination of letters or numbers, or both,
30 requested by the owner or lessee of the vehicle.

31 SEC. 5. Section 3.5 of this bill incorporates
32 amendments to Section 5101 of the Vehicle Code
33 proposed by both this bill and SB 2084. It shall only
34 become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and
35 become effective on or before January 1, 2001, (2) each
36 bill amends Section 5101 of the Vehicle Code, and (3) this
37 bill is enacted after SB 2084, in which case Section 5101 of
38 the Vehicle Code, as amended by SB 2084, shall remain
39 operative only until the operative date of this bill, at

1 *which time Section 3.5 of this bill shall become operative,*
2 *and Section 3 of this bill shall not become operative.*

3 *SEC. 6. Section 4.5 of this bill incorporates*
4 *amendments to Section 5103 of the Vehicle Code*
5 *proposed by both this bill and SB 2084. It shall only*
6 *become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and*
7 *become effective on or before January 1, 2001, (2) each*
8 *bill amends Section 5103 of the Vehicle Code, and (3) this*
9 *bill is enacted after SB 2084, in which case Section 5103 of*
10 *the Vehicle Code, as amended by SB 2084, shall remain*
11 *operative only until the operative date of this bill, at*
12 *which time Section 4.5 of this bill shall become operative,*
13 *and Section 4 of this bill shall not become operative.*

